

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A data switch having a plurality of ports, and a switching fabric for transferring data packets received at one of the ports to another of the ports specified by a header of the data packet, each of the ports being associated with one or more queues for data packets, the data switch further including:

a memory divided into packet buffers;

a plurality of registers;

a control unit for determining whether a data packet to be stored in one of the queues meets a criterion for efficient storage in the packet buffers, and otherwise dividing the data packet into a first portion which is stored in the packet buffers and a second portion which is stored in the registers;

wherein the data switch is arranged initially to store the data packet in the packet buffers and, upon the control unit making a negative determination, to transfer the second portion of the data packet from the packet buffers to the registers.

2. (Original) A data switch according to claim 1 in which the criterion for efficient storage is whether the length of the data packet is greater by more than a threshold than an integer multiple of the size of the packet buffers.

3. (Original) A data switch according to claim 2 further comprising a memory storing the threshold value.

4-5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Original) A data switch according to claim 1 which is an Ethernet switch.